

### REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the office action mailed on September 10, 2002 and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1 and 32 are amended, no claims are cancelled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-6 and 29-32 are now pending in the application. The amendment to claim 1 finds support, for example, in Figure 3B of the drawings and at page 8, lines 17-25 of the specification. The amendment to claim 32 corrects a typographical error and was not made in response to an art rejection.

#### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 32 is amended to correct a typographical error. The amendment corrects the dependency, so claim 32 is not indefinite. Therefore, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration and allowance of claim 32.

#### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kumagai (U.S. Patent No. 5,896,043).

Claim 1, as amended, recites, "each of the no more than two transistors *directly* coupled to a voltage level (emphasis added)." In contrast, Kumagai teaches, as shown in Fig. 14, transistors 1 and 2 coupled through resistor  $R_{11}$  to voltage level  $V_{SS}$ . Hence, Kumagai fails to teach each of the elements of claim 1, as amended. Thus, the office action fails to state a *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to claim 1. Therefore, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration and allowance of claim 1.

Claims 2-6 and 29-32 are dependent on claim 1. For reasons analogous to those provided above and elements in the claims, applicant respectfully submits that the office action fails to state a *prima facie* case of anticipation with respect to claims 2-6 and 29-32. Therefore,

applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-6 and 29-32.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's attorney at 612-371-2109 to facilitate prosecution of the application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date

November 12, 2002

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Box AF, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 12 day of November, 2002.

Name

DANNY PADYS

Signature

Danny Padys